

# Country Journal

*Devoted to the Needs of the Hilltowns*

Becket, Blandford, Chester, Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Huntington, Middlefield, Montgomery, Otis, Plainfield, Russell, Sandisfield, Westhampton, Williamsburg, Worthington

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## WILLIAMSBURG

### Pittsfield City Councilor tapped for Town Admin.

By Peter Spotts

The Selectboard has found the replacement for Town Administrator Charlene Nardi in Nicholas Caccamo, city councilor and research assistant from Pittsfield.

The board held its deliberations for the final three candidates on Wednesday, April 28, which included Town Clerk Brenda Lessard and a former town administrator Carl McKinney from Clarksburg. While all three candidates had desirable strengths and areas of weakness, the board had to choose which one fit the town best.

“[Caccamo] has the ability to learn everything that needs to be learned and capability to learn, build relationship skills, willingness and attitude to learn the culture of our town, and energy to take on the needed education,” Chairman Bill Sayre said. “It’s a bit of a risk in my mind, my pick, because of no direct town

**ADMINISTRATOR**, page 11



## IN AND OUT

Some Worthington voters had to gather by a speaker outside R.H. Conwell Elementary School and report votes via the window to comply with COVID-19 protocols at Annual Town Meeting on Saturday, May 1.

Photos by Peter Spotts



Residents vote on one of 36 warrant articles during Annual Town Meeting.

## HAMPSHIRE

### School Committee approves wrestling for competitions

By Peter Spotts

Wrestlers at Hampshire Regional High School have patiently waited all year for a chance to compete and the Hampshire Regional School Committee has granted them that right as of Monday, May 3.

The committee unanimously approved wrestling to compete in matches with other schools as long as they adhere to having a Covid Coach to monitor protocols are followed, wear masks, have temperature checks each time they’re going to practice or compete, and get weekly covid tests. If some-

one has a temperature above 101.4 degrees, they won’t be able to participate.

“We’ve seen that work successfully with other teams, so I’d like to see that,” Chairman Margaret Larson said. “I’d love to give these wrestlers a chance to compete.”

Several wrestlers lobbied on behalf of the team for the committee to support them in the vote on Monday night. Seniors Maxwell Abel and Bryce Illingsworth, both closing in on 100 career wins, spoke about how much this season would mean to the athletes.

“One senior season is

very important and allows kids like myself to make memories they’ll remember forever,” Abel said. “Wrestling is also a great way to stay in shape and burn some steam off, which is really need this year; it’s been very stressful.”

“It’s this fabled club I would love to get into and without a season of competition that impossible. We are dedicated to adhering to any mitigation strategies the school committee sees fit,” Illingsworth said. “The wrestlers are really good about sanitizing after matches.”

Alex Willard added as a member of the gymnastics

team, he has experience with operating an indoor sport under protocols and would be able to help pass that knowledge on to his teammates.

“I’d just like to say I was on the gymnastics team, so I was one of the first sports to have its season. With that experience, I’d be able to monitor masking and also I know the guidelines from that so I can lead people and be in charge of more guidelines to follow.”

Committee member Don Willard spoke on behalf of the team, noting the aca-

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## WORTHINGTON

### Frontage petition referred to board

By Peter Spotts

The citizen’s petition to reduce minimum frontage required for a principal structure from 400 feet to 280 feet didn’t receive an official town vote, as voters moved to send the issue to the Planning Board to work on and report back in two years.

Tina McCarthy’s petition received vocal support from some town officials and residents who felt the work put into the petition deserved an official vote, regardless of the outcome, with more than 130 residents attending the Annual Town meeting

**PETITION**, page 7

## CHESTERFIELD

### Museum repair options at ATM

By Peter Spotts

Three options for repairs to the Edwards Museum will be among the 21 articles voters will vote to approve or deny at Annual Town Meeting on Saturday, May 15, at 9 a.m. behind New Hingham Elementary School.

The long list of repairs included repainting rotted building sills and porch sills, collar ties, replacing the exterior wood siding with vinyl siding, replacing existing windows, and replacing the roof with plywood and new shingles.

**MUSEUM**, page 16

## BLANDFORD

### Selectboard rules dog a nuisance

By Mary Kronholm

The Selectboard began Monday’s meeting with a Public Hearing to determine whether or not a dog, Dixie, kept by Susan and John Vurovecz of 12 Birch Hill Road is a nuisance dog or dangerous dog as defined by Mass. General Law, Section 157, Ch. 140.

The hearing was held as the result of a written complaint brought to the town by Kin Blanchette of 4 Birch Hill Road. This is the second written complaint from Blanchette, the first written

**DOG**, page 6



## HILTTOWNS

# Mobile Market opens signups for farm shares

The Hilltown Mobile Market is back for a third season, with farm share signups now available for the season that will run for 12 weeks from July 22 through Oct. 8.

"What makes the Hilltown Community Farm Share so much fun is that you get to pick what you like to eat from the veggie van," said Seva Water, Coordinator for the Hilltown Mobile Market. "We drive to farms all around the Hilltowns and gather what was just picked fresh from the field. You get to come to the closest market to pick it up."

The Mobile Market makes four stops each week during the season: the Worthington Congregational Church from 2 to 3:30 p.m. and the Cummington Kingman Tavern from 4:30 to 6 p.m. every Thursday, and the Blandford Post Office from 2 to 3:30 p.m. and the Huntington Town Green from 4:30 to 6 p.m. every Friday.

The full season value of a share is \$180 of fresh fruits and vegetables from a neighboring farm, or about \$15 per week. A share allows customers to choose five items of fresh produce each week from over a dozen options on the veggie van that change with the seasons, such as lettuce, tomatoes and cucumbers in the summer and potatoes, corn, and winter squash in the fall. It is ideal for a single person, elder couple or small family. Larger families and those who like to preserve the summer bounty are welcome to sign up for multiple shares.

Those who register for a farm share can also take advantage of a sliding scale payment option to make the cost more affordable, thanks to fund-



The Hilltown Mobile Market is returning to Blandford, Cummington, Huntington, and Worthington this summer and fall to bring fresh produce to hilltown residents.

*Submitted photos*



ing from the Hilltown CDC and other donors. Customers can choose the low-income option at \$5 per week,

moderate-income option at \$10 per week, or the fair priced option at \$15 per week. Those with more means may choose the

Helping Hand option at \$20 per week, which supports the market and pays for an additional low-income share for another family in the Hilltowns.

The market grew out of a pilot project funded by Healthy Hampshire in 2019 that was guided by the work of the Hilltown Food Council, a multi-stakeholder advisory group. The market is supported by customers, grants and generous donors and is an ongoing collaboration between Healthy Hampshire, Hilltown CDC, and the Hilltown Community Health Center.

"We have built a strong network of farmers and food access advocates in an area with limited options to purchase healthy and affordable local food," Water said. "The mobile market has become a popular venue for everyone to enjoy what our neighborhood farms have to offer, regardless of income or other life factors."

During the pandemic, the Hilltown Mobile Market was able to participate in a limited expansion of farm vendors licensed to process the state's Healthy Incentives Program, thanks to major advocacy from our representatives and food access organizers. This year, customers using SNAP can be reimbursed \$40, \$60, or \$80 a month depending on household size when they purchase fresh produce from the Hilltown Mobile Market.

Limited shares are available, so those who would like to sign up should do so quickly. More details about the Hilltown Mobile Market, including how to sign up for a share, can be found at [hilltownmobilemarket.info](http://hilltownmobilemarket.info).

## Health center opens COVID-19 vaccinations to 18 and older

Hilltown Community Health Center is now offering COVID-19 vaccinations for all of its patients at sites in Huntington, ages 18 and older. Anyone who receives services from HCHC is eligible, which includes patients of the medical, dental, behavioral health, optometry, or Community Center programs.

In addition, HCHC is now offering vaccinations to all residents of Huntington, Chester, and Middlefield. As the clinic's capacity allows, and on a rolling basis, eligibility will open to other hilltown communities' residents. HCHC will use Massachusetts Department of Public Health data on towns' vaccination rates to ensure that the schedule of eligible communities is

based on need.

"We want to make sure that those people who have faced barriers in accessing a vaccination can get the shot," said Eliza Lake, HCHC's Chief Executive Officer. "We know that many people want to receive their vaccination as close to home as possible, and we are working hard to make that happen."

In future weeks and months, HCHC will be conducting extensive outreach to Hilltown residents to identify and contact those who need more information about the vaccine or help accessing a vaccination clinic.

For more information, or to schedule an appointment for a vaccination, please call 413-667-3009, ext. 261.

### TROLLEY LINE



The Huckleberry Trolley Line ran through the Hilltowns from Huntington to Lee 1911 to 1919. On Old Chester Road in Blandford, the Hilltown Hikers discovered the roadbed was actually much different than how it is today; at some point the road was diverted to bridge over the trolley line probably when the trolley line was built. Pictured are the old bridge abutments.

*Submitted photos*



## Wave parade to celebrate Memorial Day May 30

The communities of Otis and Sandisfield plan to commemorate Memorial Day by holding a wave parade on Sunday, May 30. All veterans and members of the community are encouraged to come ride.

Parade participants will meet at Farmington River Regional School, 555 North Main Road in Otis. The parade will start at 11 a.m. sharp.

There will be stops at four locations for short services including the Route 57 Cemetery in Sandisfield, the Route 57 Berkshire Rehabilitation Facility, the Route 8 American Legion

in Sandisfield and the Route 8 Church Green in Otis.

The parade will start on Route 8 at Farmington River Regional School and proceed to Route 23; west to Town Hill Road to Route 57, stopping at the cemetery; continuing up Route 57 to Berkshire Rehab, then to Route 8 south to Villa Mia and Route 8 North, stopping at the American Legion. The parade will then make its final leg up Reservoir Road to Tolland Road to Pine Road to Reservoir Road to Route 23 east to L&M to Route 223 West to Route 8, ending at the church green.

## Highland Valley Elder Services announces purchased services request for proposals

Highland Valley Elder Services, a designated Aging Services Access Point funded in part by the Executive Office of Elder Affairs, has released its fiscal 2022 through fiscal 2024 Purchase Services Request for Proposals.

HVES is seeking proposals for the following services: Adult Day Health, Alzheimer's Day Program, Alzheimer's/Dementia Coaching, Assisted Transportation, Behavioral Health Services, Chore (light, medium, heavy), Companion, Complex Care Training and Oversight (CCTO), Emergency Shelter, Environmental Accessibility Adaptations, Evidenced Based Programs, Goal Engagement Program, Grocery Shopping/Delivery, Habilitation Therapy, Home Based Wandering Response Systems, Home Delivered Meal Supplements, Home Delivery of Pre-packaged Meds, Home Health Aide, Home Safety/Independence Evaluations (formerly Occupational Therapy), Homemaker, Laundry, Medication Dispensing Systems, Minor Home Repairs, Orientation & Mobility, Peer Support,

Personal Emergency Response Systems, Personal Care, Physical Therapy, Respite, Speech Therapy, Supportive Day Programs, Supportive Home Care Aide, Translation/Interpretation, Transportation, Vision Rehabilitation, Wanderer Locator Service, COVID-19 (Care Coach, Companion Telehealth, Necessity Shopping, Virtual Consumer Monitoring, Visitation Wellness Check, ADH Remote Day Service), COVID-19 Care (HM, PC, HHA, SHCA, Companion, Chore, CCTO) and Protective Services (Competency Evaluations, Financial Consultation Services, Legal Services).

Completed proposals are due by 5 p.m. on June 30, 2021. Applicants must read instructions and complete an online application at [highlandvalley.org/about-us/highland-valley-initiatives](http://highlandvalley.org/about-us/highland-valley-initiatives).

HVES reserves the right to reject any bids, full or in part. Provider Agreements awarded based upon HVES needs for the period Oct. 1, 2021 through Sept. 30, 2024. For information and any questions, contact RFP@Highlandvalley.org or call 413-588-5596.

## HUNTINGTON

# COA activities include exercise, puzzles, walking challenge

**HUNTINGTON** — The Council on Aging is offering activities for seniors to do at home. Puzzles, craft bags, and exercise kits will be available for pick up on the third Friday of each month at Stanton Hall, 26 Russell Road in Huntington, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. during Brown Bag distribution.

Puzzles are isolated for two weeks before redistribution. Craft bags will vary each month. The exercise kit features an exercise DVD, hand weights, and exercise bands. Please call 413-512-5205 to reserve items for pick up.

Massachusetts Councils on Aging encourages all Councils on Aging to promote walking for seniors. Physical activity improves the overall health and well-being of older adults. Even modest levels of activity done daily for 30

minutes can prevent or control heart disease, diabetes, osteoporosis, colon cancer, and weight gain. Walking boosts energy levels, improves blood circulation, lowers blood pressure, combats depression, and reduces stress.

The Council on Aging is sponsoring a "Walking Challenge" and all participants will receive a walking journal, information on walking groups, and the Town walking map. The challenge is to determine a weekly personal walking goal and track the progress on the walking log. At the end of 26 weeks, participants are requested to return the log to the Council on Aging in to qualify for a chance to win a \$50 gift certificate for a new pair of shoes. The gift certificate drawing will be held in October. Please call 413-512-5205 to sign up.

## COA farm share applications available

**HUNTINGTON** — The Council on Aging is once again offering farm shares through Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture. The cost is just \$10 and covers all 10 weeks of the program.

Participants must be Huntington residents and 60 years old or older to qualify. In addition, they must be able to answer yes to at least one of the following four criteria: they receive SNAP benefits (food stamps), Medicaid, SSI,

AFDC, welfare, or veteran's aid; they participate in the Food Bank's Brown Bag Program; they live alone; and their income is below \$25,760 or the total income of their household is below \$34,840 (only one share per household).

The application deadline is June 1. There are 18 shares available. If more than 18 applications are received, then there will be a random drawing to select the participants. If interested, please call Kathleen Peterson at 413-512-5205.

## NORWICH HILL

The First Congregational Church of Huntington reminds everyone even though our physical doors are closed until further notice, we are most definitely open for worship, praise, ministry, and fellowship. We are an Open and Affirming Church inviting, welcoming, and affirming everyone — seekers, believers, and wonderers alike — on their journey of faith, to join in 10 a.m. Zoom Sunday worship.

Our readings from 1 John 5:1-6 and John 15:9-17 invite us to wonder about real love, how to have it for one another, and what the deep, living connection to life and community that nourishes us has to do with love. We will also be celebrating Mother's Day.

The pastor is always available to speak with you. If you do not receive our emails and would like to connect with our Zoom worship service and/or fellowship time, please contact Pastor Carol at [firstchurchofhuntington@gmail.com](mailto:firstchurchofhuntington@gmail.com) to receive the information you will need to participate or send us a message on Facebook.

Please use the phone numbers and email address provided to stay in touch or to contact the pastor. You are also invited to find us on Facebook at "Norwich Hill" for updates, information, and spiritual encouragement. For more information, please contact 413-667-3935 or 860-798-7771 or [firstchurchofhuntington@gmail.com](mailto:firstchurchofhuntington@gmail.com).

## BECKET

## Scholarship applications due May 15

**BECKET** — The Becket Scholarship Foundation awards financial grants to students to help with financing their first year of college.

Awards are open to students who live in Becket and are based on scholarship, community service, and leadership.

Applications must be received by May 15.

For more information or to receive the application form, please contact Kathy Rodhouse at [KRodhousR3@aol.com](mailto:KRodhousR3@aol.com) at 413-623-5014.

## Support church fundraiser Saturday, May 8

**BECKET** — The First Congregational Church of Becket has suffered extensive damage from powder post beetles who have destroyed floor beams and belfry beams which will now need to be replaced. The 1850 building has withstood much but this damage went unnoticed for a long time.

The town of Becket Community Preservation Committee was asked last year to provide funds for engineering and architectural work to be done to assess how to best approach the problem. The money was voted on at last year's town meeting and the studies have been completed. The church has a recast Paul Revere bell, the only one left in Berkshire County.

Funding has again been requested through the CPA fund for the belfry damage to be addressed as it has been determined to be the most immediate problem. This will be a huge undertaking for this small church and so we are beginning to hold fund raisers to begin to accumulate over \$200,000 for the needed work.

The first will be a Mother's Day hanging plant and patio pot sale on Saturday, May 8, at the corner of YMCA Road and Route 8 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. An assortment of plants will be available and can be reserved by calling 413-623-6455. If someone would like an order form, call the above number and an order form can be emailed.

## RUSSELL



Ellie from Russell enjoys a higher view of the StoryWalk at AMC Noble View Outdoor Center in Russell. Submitted photos



Daphne and Clara explore a bridge on the StoryWalk at AMC Noble View Outdoor Center. Submitted photos

## New story walk opens Friday

**RUSSELL** — Beginning Friday, May 7, The Hilltown Family Center and The Appalachian Mountain Club invite families to a new Hilltown StoryWalk of "The Hike" by Alison Farrell at Noble View Outdoor Center, in Russell. "The Hike" is a joyous, magical, and honest adventure about three intrepid young explorers as they quest to the top of a mountain, hiking through numerous wonderful sights.

Families are invited to come at any time, no registration required, during daylight hours to walk the trail and read the book at their leisure. Please proceed past the bottom gate to the upper parking lot where signage will direct you to the StoryWalk. This trail is not handicapped accessible or suitable for strollers. Participants are to adhere to all posted AMC and Hilltown Family Center Covid-19 protocols.

This StoryWalk was generously funded by a Community Development Block Grant through the Town of Chester and in collaboration with the Hilltown Family Center and the volunteers and resources of the Appalachian Mountain Club. There is no charge to participants for this StoryWalk. For information about this event, please contact Susan LeBarron, Hilltown Family Center coordinator, at 413-667-2203, ext. 311 or [slebarron@hchcweb.org](mailto:slebarron@hchcweb.org). Learn more at [amc-wma.org](http://amc-wma.org).

The Hilltown Family Center, located at 9 Russell Road in Huntington, houses many of the Hilltown Community Health Center's community programs and services, and offers an extensive list of resources for parents, caregivers, and families. The Family Center programs are built around the belief in nurturing strong families, by helping them to strengthen their flexibility and resilience. Programs help families establish strong social connections and give concrete support in times of need, recognizing family's strengths and understanding that being a parent is part natural and part learned. The Family Center also helps children connect and relate to their world. For more about the Hilltown Family Center please visit our Facebook page or [HCHCweb.org](http://HCHCweb.org).

Founded in 1876 the mission of the Appalachian Mountain Club is to foster the protection, enjoyment, and understanding of the outdoors. We envision a world where our natural resources are healthy, loved, and always protected, and where the outdoors occupies a place of central importance in every person's life. The AMC's Western Massachusetts Chapter carries out the AMC mission in the geographic region defined by the four counties that comprise Western Massachusetts, namely: Berkshire, Franklin, Hampshire, and Hampden. Learn more at [amc-wma.org](http://amc-wma.org).

## MIDDLEFIELD

## Transfer Station closed Saturday

**MIDDLEFIELD** — Summer Transfer Station hours began Wednesday, May 5. It will be open from 4 to 8 p.m. on

Wednesdays. The station will be closed Saturday, May 8, but will resume Sunday, May 9, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

## MIDDLEFIELD SENIOR CENTER

Lunch is served at the Senior Center, 169 Skyline Trail, Middlefield, each Wednesday at noon.

A \$3 donation is suggested. Reservations should be made, and meal choice stated, by calling and leaving a message at 413-623-9990 the Monday

before. Pick-up and delivery are available.

The menu on Wednesday, May 12, is baked pollock with panko topping and tartar sauce, mixed vegetables, au gratin potatoes, pumpernickel bread, and applesauce.

## Make your Mother's Day

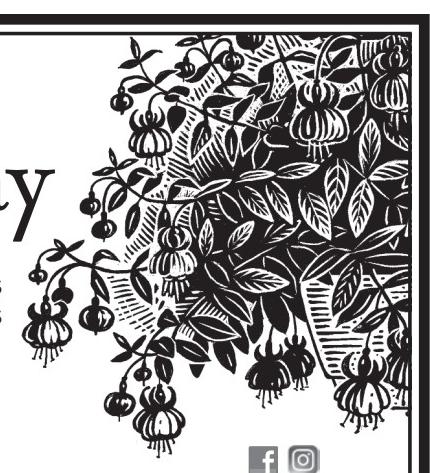
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# OPINION

## GUEST COLUMN

### In My Backyard

By Ellenor Downer

The male brown-headed cowbird is a stocky blackbird and as its name implies has a brown head. They are smaller than the red-winged blackbird. The female is brown, lighter brown on the head and underparts with streaking on the belly. She also has a dark eye, short tail and conical beak.

Cowbirds are infamous for laying their eggs in other birds' nests. The female cowbird notes when a potential host bird lays its eggs and when the nest is left momentarily unattended, the cowbird lays its own egg in it. The female cowbird may continue to observe this nest after laying eggs. Some bird species have evolved the ability to detect such parasitic eggs and may reject them by pushing them out of their nests, but the female cowbird has been observed to attack and destroy the remaining eggs of such birds as a consequence, dissuading further removals. Cowbirds lay eggs in over 100 species of birds.

This week I watched a male cowbird on the ground under my feeder strut and display for a female feeding on the ground. I first saw the pair March 31. The male arrived first and then the female. It was also the case with the red-winged blackbirds with the males appearing earlier than the females.



#### Courting behavior

On April 10 I looked out at the feeder. The male cardinal was in the tray feeder and the female was in a nearby branch. He flew over to female and passed her a sunflower seed. It won't be long before they raise a brood and I will see the parents feeding their young seeds by my feeder.

With the black bears out and about, I only put a small amount of seed in the tray every morning. I was taking in my suet feeder for the night, but I ran out of suet cakes.

#### Great blue herons

On April 3, I watched two great blue herons land in the back part of the beaver pond, which abuts my hayfield. A few days later one flew over my house when I was taking care of my chickens.

#### Juncos

I still see a few juncos in my yard, but there are not as many as there were during the winter. Soon, they will be heading north to Canada for the breeding season.

#### Canada geese

I saw two Canada geese in my hayfield next to the beaver pond. Every year, a pair or two of geese raise a family there. Geese also raise families in the beaver pond on the other side of the road.

*People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.*

## Corrections policy

If you notice a factual error in our pages, please let us know, so that we can set the record straight. Email information to countryjournal@turley.com, or call us at 413-283-8393.

Corrections will be printed in the same section where the error originally occurred.

### Summer gas shortage may affect plans...



## GUEST COLUMN

### My Mother's Story

By Anne Sabo Warner

My mother came from a family of 11 children, one of whom died in infancy. She was the oldest of three girls. When she was nine, her mother was bedridden with an infection in one of her knees. She recovered, but one leg was several inches shorter than the other and she was fitted with a cork-soled shoe that left her unsteady and limping badly. My mother became her legs — fetching, carrying, lifting, running errands. They ran a household together for a family of twelve. In the meantime, some of her older brothers were marrying and starting families, and Mother was dispatched when there was a new baby to serve as nursemaid and household help. Somehow, she managed to get a decent education when girls were still considered incapable of learning much except the three R's. When she was about 20, the family moved to Lowell and she had the opportunity to attend one of the new normal schools for training teachers. The last part of training was to send them out into the world to do some real teaching, often to small rural towns. Thus, she ended up in Goshen where she stayed to marry, raise five children, and spend the rest of her life.

My father was the middle son of immigrants. As such he was on his own; European tradition passed everything to the eldest, my Uncle John. So, Mother and Dad rented, moving several times in the early 1920s, usually following job opportunities. Finally in 1926 they bought my father's boyhood farm at the top of the hill on West Street. It was the ultimate fixer-upper; the roof leaked and the ell with the summer kitchen was half-collapsed. There was no electricity or running water, but it was the Roaring Twenties — work was abundant, the farm would feed the family, what could possibly go wrong? As the Depression set in, my mother lost both her parents to untimely deaths: she to a ruptured appendix, he to infection of a broken leg. My mother then had to have two major surgeries in a span of 10 years. My father had to take out a second mortgage. Meanwhile there was a family to raise. Dad worked the farm

to feed us, and elsewhere to pay the bills. Mother took care of the household and children, who pitched in at an early age. Mother never complained about lacking conveniences, and we didn't either. Lots of Depression farm families lived like we did. I'm sure she had her moments, but her innate good cheer always won out. Children were never lectured or scolded, but we knew there were expectations to live up to. If we slipped up a look from Mother was enough.

By the early 1940s, I was the only child left at home. My brother had joined the Army and eventually settled in Maine. My sisters married and settled in town. World War II gradually brought prosperity, and new sons-in-law helped with long-needed repairs and improvements to the old farmhouse. Electricity finally came in 1946 as well as running water and a hot-air furnace. Mother had a chance to earn a little money. She clerked for the ration board and did some substitute teaching. New neighbors were happy to give her a ride or run errands. She had always been devoted to the church and continued to play the church organ. She kept in touch with her girlhood family with the Round Robin: ten letters in a packet, one from each sibling. She and Dad settled into a comfortable existence, with daughters and grandchildren nearby. They had kept a little woodstove, so Dad had to chop wood, and that made him happy. Mother still cooked and baked for him, and that made her happy. Although she had always had flower gardens and houseplants, Mother had never really had a hobby. She loved to read, but most of her quiet time had usually been spent mending and darning socks. She now filled her time cutting up old coats and making braided rugs, among them four room-sized for each of her daughters.

When Dad finally retired at 83, they lived on Social Security. Mother was always frugal because she had to be. We always teased her about it. When she passed away at 91, there were five savings accounts worth thousands of dollars, equally divided among her children.

Anne Sabo Warner is a former Goshen resident who currently resides in Enfield, Connecticut.

### The Garden Lady takes on various pests

Eaine, who gardens in Ware, wrote in with this question for the Garden Lady: "I have a problem with grubs and moles. In your article you said beer is effective on grubs. Would you please explain how to do this. My whole yard and vegetable garden is infested. Last year I found out my vegetables had grubs and mole tunnels. Do you have any suggestions on how to deal with moles also?"

Thanks for your question. Beer is an effective bait for slugs, but I have never



ROBERTA MCQUAID  
TURLEY PUBLICATIONS COLUMNIST

heard of it used on grubs. Last year we had lots of rain, right around the time that my strawberries were turning red. Nothing is more disturbing than picking a strawberry and finding a slug burrowed inside! I set stale beer in a saucer, level with the surface of the soil. The slugs were lured in and drowned. I cleaned and refreshed the saucer every two or three days depending on how

**GARDEN**, page 5

## EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor should be 500 words or less in length. We require letter writers to include his or her name, town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources.

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# OPINION

## HILTTOWN HISTORY

### Stories Stacked in Stone

By Deborah Daniels

**H**iking the Knox Trail with Tom Ragusa, local expert historical surveyor, he pointed out the remains of ancient Native American cairns. Ron Bernard, local cairn expert, explained how these predated the 1775 trail bringing cannons to fight the British in Boston. Whoa, wait a minute, that pile of stones was placed here before 1775? What are they you ask? They are cairns built by Native Americans some 700-1,000 years ago. Yup that predates the white man being in town. It is hard to imagine this time when the land was traversed by nomadic Indians. Their trails wound all around the eastern seaboard up into Canada and back leaving New England rich in evidence of their civilization or more precisely their lack of civilization. It seems they did leave ceremonial areas and trails marked with stones that they understood.

Who were these Indians? These people were the original hikers with a philosophy of take only what you need, carry it in and carry it out. The concept of ownership was foreign to them. They visited sites, lived off the land and moved on according to the season's abundance. It seems they had a deep respect for the cyclical nature of life and sharing the world with nature. And before you became fertilizer for new life, there was a matter of honoring the spirits. Spirits were the supreme controllers of everyday life. It was thought that spirits controlled the abundance of animals, the rain you drank for water, the rivers that supplied water for the growth of plants and trees, spirits that kept the sun shining to warm the earth and kept the moon shining to light your way at night. So, ceremonies were practiced by the Indians to communicate with the spirits what their needs were as well as to honor and show gratitude for all that the spirits' had done for them. It was believed that failure to honor these spirits led to calamity, such as disease, drought, harsh weather, hostile tribal attacks and misfortune. This is the theory modern day historians and archeologists propose for what these ceremonial stone landscapes may represent.

How about the Indians, what do they say? In the words of the United Southern and Eastern Tribes of American Indians, a non-profit intertribal organization of Indians, "our ancestors used these sacred landscapes to sustain the people's reliance on Mother Earth and the spirit of balance and harmony." They refer to these structures as prayers in stone located on sacred land that they ask the government to preserve. Indeed, it is a federal offense

to remove or mishandle cairn stones on federal land. There are Indian tribes with offices for historic preservation that may shed more light on the history and meaning of cairns. A story to be followed up on in my next life.

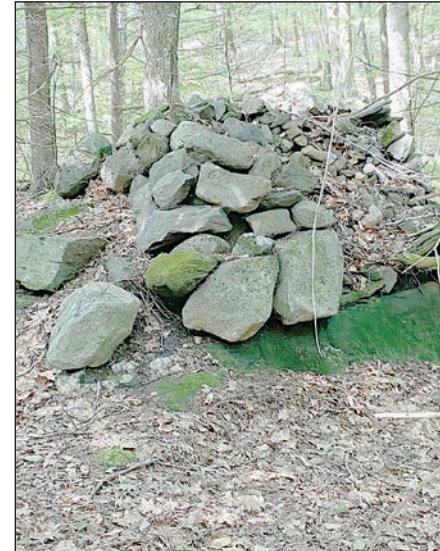
Cairns are piles of stones that have been observed to be shaped as mounds, cone shaped, some in the form of a turtle with the head facing toward water, some placed on the ground or laid on top of a boulder with great variation in size from three feet to 40 feet in length. Often there are many mounds or cairns placed haphazardly around an area. We do not know the significance of this. There are additional structures identified as ceremonial stones such as enclosures, never with four sides, niches, standing stones, balanced rocks, split rocks, and effigy stones. Serpentines are a common effigy with stones piled in a winding snake like style, with a large triangular boulder head. There are also partial walls, some shaped like a square horseshoe and t-walls, stone walls built up to a ledge or boulder in the shape of a T and pedestal stones. The stone walls are not stacked or organized as colonials would do in order to make a wall. There are naturally split stones that Indians have filled in with smaller stones that are thought to represent a way to prevent spirits from escaping. Alternatively, one to two stones driven between two rocks wedge style, are thought to represent holding open the stone to allow spirits to escape. You gotta take this stuff on Faith! Sacajawea where are you? We really need an Indian guide here.

There is no written history to tell us the true meaning of these stones. There are theories that stone structures with openings represent portals for the movement of spirits, some may have been monuments to heroes, some to identify trails, some to denote sacred ground where Indians worshiped and some may have been used for burials, although this has not been borne out when the piles of stone have been dismantled. Excavation of cairns has rarely revealed artifacts that can be dated nor is charcoal found, indicating a possible burial. Archeologists rely on early tools such as gouges and adzes (woodworking tools) and flaked blades, projectile points, polishing stones (hunting tools), and stone vessels (cooking tools) found at sites to provide clues to how the Indians lived. These have not been found at sites. Tools have been found in much later burial sites but not in cairns. As a prehistoric society what would you celebrate? How about the summer and winter solstice right? Well linear arrangements of stones have been found with openings in the stone



A stone cairn located on the Stevens Property, a Hilltown land trust reservation in Huntington.

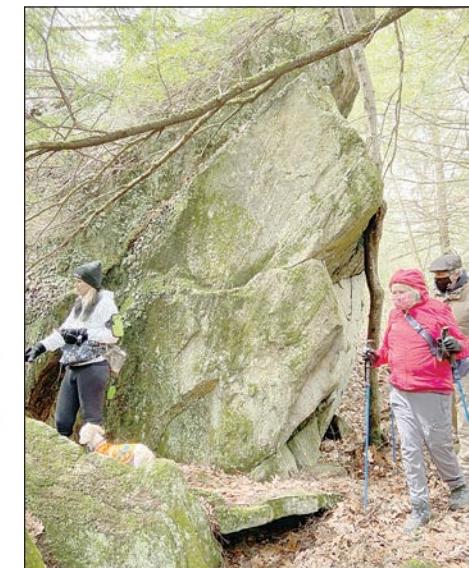
Submitted photos by Deborah Daniels



A stone cairn on the Knox Trail during a hike on April 17.



Stone tools displayed at the Memorial Hall Museum in Deerfield.



Liz Massa, left, Gail Gelburd, and Tom Ragusa explore Knox Trail and look at the monolithic stone found there.

about how we are all connected to each other but we own nothing in her song, "Paint with all the colors of the Wind." Play that song for a clue to unraveling the mystery of the stones.

Special thanks to the Old Lyme Connecticut Historical Society for their help with information on ceremonial stones. Hartman Park in Old Lyme has many examples of ceremonial stonework, worth a day trip. Hike on Hilltowners. Recognize those hikers in the photo, near the monolithic launcher stone?

*Do you have a memory or historical curiosity from the Hilltowns that you'd like to share with your neighbors? Send your story and photos to countryjournal@turley.com.*

## GARDEN

many slugs were there. Handpicking slugs also works well. Typically they feed in the early morning hours, so I would go out just after sunrise and drop the bugs into a yogurt container filled with soapy water. Other folks put down boards in the garden (they like to hide there) or use cantaloupe rinds face down where they'll also congregate. Many can be disposed of easily and without too much yuck-factor.

As far as grubs go, I'll recommend Milky Spore powder, a bacterium that the Japanese grub will ingest as it feeds in the lawn. The bacteria reproduce inside the grub's gut and usually kill it in a week or two. As the grub decomposes it will release even more bacteria, thereby killing even more grubs. So on and so forth. It may take a few years for populations of grubs to decrease but once in the soil the bacteria will last for years. Apply when the soil temperature reaches 65 degrees or more, during a period of active feeding in summer or

early fall. Since grubs are a food source for moles, fewer grubs will likely cut down on mole populations as well. Less grubs may also mean fewer holes in the lawn from skunks who are looking for dinner. Milky Spore is registered with the EPA and is reported safe for people, pets, wildlife, beneficials and the like. I hope this advice helps!

### Orchard pests

Walter is a home orchardist and also has a question about pests. "I have pears, apples, plums and nectarine trees. How can I keep raccoons, possums, squirrels and skunks away from my fruit trees? When the trees mature, they raid the trees and take bites out of the apples and other fruit, and then leave the fruits on the ground with one or two bites in the fruits. Any advice would be truly appreciated."

How frustrating to wait for your fruit to mature, only to have it eaten. I consulted my favorite orchardist,

Michael Phillips, by way of his book, "The Holistic Orchard," to get some answers for you in terms of these pests and birds which might also be causing some of the havoc. One idea I thought that sounded interesting is blocking access to the trunk so that the animals can't climb up. Wrapping the trunk in aluminum roof flashing up to four feet is reportedly enough to deter raccoons and squirrels. Spreading some gooey tangle trap on plastic just above the flashing doubles the punch. Squirrels can jump from tree, though, but reportedly like a quick get away, and steer away from areas with tall vegetation (news to me!!) so perhaps letting the grass grow up a bit near harvest may help.

As far as deterrents go, I am wondering about those fake owls that you often see at pick-your-own orchards. It may be worth a shot to install one of those. The same would go for the big scare-eye balloons. Usually with these type of deterrents, it's critical to move

them often so that they don't merely become part of the scenery, but actually scare the pest away: think predator/prey.

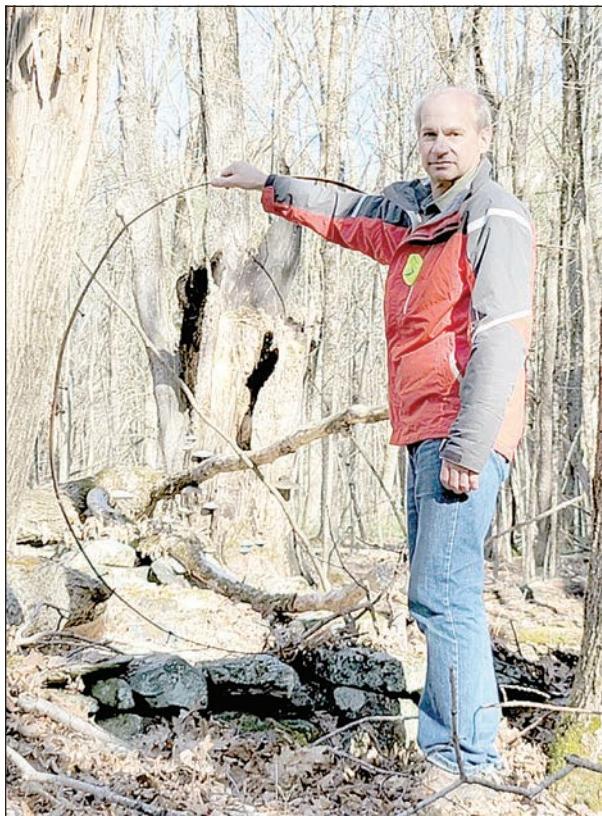
Hanging artificial fruit prior to harvest to the point that the culprit bird gets sick of trying to peck something inedible may also be worth a try. Some people even leave them up all year long! And when in doubt, I always try predator urine. Back in the days of having infants in my household, you would often see a diaper hanging in an onion bag in my orchard to keep animal thugs out. I guess creativity comes into play. Good luck.

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekenney@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.*

from page 4

# BLANDFORD

## HOMELY LEFTOVERS



Russ LaPierre holds up a relic found while exploring the Richardson Cellar Hole and Farmstead on old Herrick Road in Blandford.

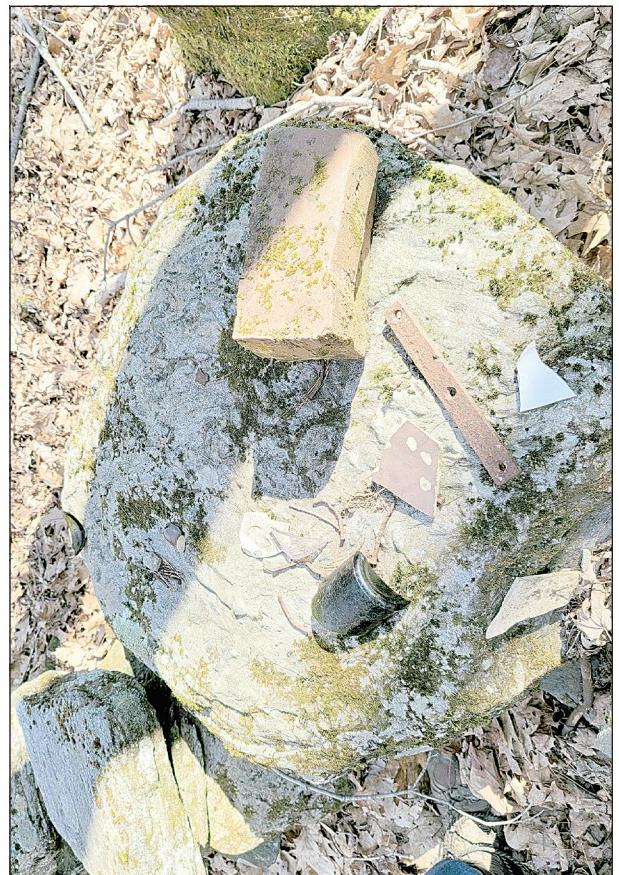
*Submitted photos*



There were a variety of old tools to be discovered at the remains of the homestead.



Old bricks mix with rock walls and rusted relics.



Bricks, glass, and ceramic remains of all shapes and sizes.

## Covid questions answered for Memorial Day, offices opening

By Mary Kronholm

BLANDFORD — Board of Health representative Jennifer Girard met with the Select Board and discussed Covid-19 updates.

The board was specifically concerned with opening the town offices to the public and the town's annual Memorial Day observations. Board member Eric McVey asked about conducting church services.

Girard asked to put off the discussion of opening the town hall for another week as there will be additional updates and information regarding gatherings, assemblies, meetings, etc. forthcoming and the Board of Health wanted to have the opportunity to discuss this at their meeting later in the week. The board agreed.

As of May 10, indoor and outdoor activities can resume at 25% capacity, and any activity must have a plan in place reviewed by the Board of Health.

Girard did say that as of May 29, "unless there is a surge in Covid, gatherings can be 200 indoors and 250 outdoors," so there is no reason the town can't proceed with Memorial Day.

McVey wanted to be sure that any burden placed on the pastor be cleared. Recommendations are still in place, but according to the BOH, there will be additional information and changes.

Doug Emo, who organizes Memorial Day observations, was present.

Girard reiterated the guidelines which include mask wearing at outdoor events when social distancing not practiced.

Emo said he would like to proceed with the event.

"I can get it together," he said and will contact the school district for the band, local fire departments, and other regular participants.

McVey said it would just be a nice thing to get people accustomed to being outside again, attending a picnic, and that it did not necessarily have to be a "big extravagant affair."

Details for the picnic have to be ironed out, about food, serving, etc. and Girard asked that individual packets of condiments be used, rather than having large containers for general use.

Letendre said, "Maybe it'll be BYOK [bring your own ketchup]," which brought a chuckle from those present.

Emo asked if the veteran banners could be put back on the utility poles, some have been returned to their sponsors and if the Highway Department could help installing flag brackets and flags with the lift-truck. Emo explained that since so many poles have been replaced, the brackets need to be installed. McVey asked that the board authorized Rene Senecal to have the Highway Department assist with the flags.

Owner Project Manager David Shrestinian joined the meeting virtually and reviewed costs and timeline for the proposed scope of planning for the construction of a new highway facility and fire station in response to the town's request for qualifications.

Beginning in June, the conceptual design will begin and need town approval. The actual design phase begins in December and will continue through various steps from schematic design, development to construction documents, until November 2022. Actual construction start is anticipated for spring of 2023 unless the town is interested in minimizing winterizing conditions. This would require discussion to consider balancing cost.

The expectation is that the OPM costs are for time and material up to the figures provided, \$138,585.

Town Administrator told the board he would have a contract for Shrestinian's services by next meeting.

In other business, the board made the following appointments, John Piper, Conservation; Jason Forgue for Building Commissioner, Theresa Donovan for Animal Control, Mary Kronholm and Ashley Neveu for Arts Council, and Eric Kinshier for Accountant.

The Fire Department received a grant for turn-out gear for \$8,495 and the board approved the contract. The board also signed registration information for an additional Fire Department vehicle, a van-type truck for equipment free from Federal Excess Property. It will be used to transport equipment and transportation to the Fire Academy.

The town will come up with a proposal for a Site Readiness grant for use of Shepard Farm.

The board reviewed the departmental expense report and another draft of the warrant for the Annual Town Meeting.

## Town Administrator to run for mayor

BLANDFORD — "I told him it was the worst great idea he's ever had," said Administrative Assistant Joann Martin at the close of the Select Board meeting on April 27.

Board member Eric McVey said he had an "announcement" to make. While cruising headlines, his wife learned that Town Administrator

### DOG

complaint of a similar incident was last August.

Dixie was off-leash and came after Blanchette and her dog, Trooper. She was finishing her walk and heading home when she neared the Vurovecz's driveway and saw Dixie with her owner and believed the dog to be leashed. This was at the same time as the school bus was bringing students home from school. At that point, she "bolted down the driveway" and Blanchette started to run.

She said she heard the owner call out to the dog "once" but not come after Dixie.

Blanchette ran across the road stumbling into the path of an oncoming vehicle. According to Blanchette, Dixie headed back up her driveway and eventually Vurovecz "grabbed her dog by the collar".

Animal Control officer Terry Donovan presented her report to the board. "Basically, it's a repeat of last year," she said. "Kim was walking her dog, and once again Sue's dog came down and chased her."

"I don't think the dog is dangerous," said Donovan, but added that the owners did not follow the order imposed by the board last year.

The board declared the dog, Dixie, at the August 2020 hearing to be a Nuisance Dog, and based on that made the following order: "The dog known as Dixie shall not be allowed outdoors on the improved portion of the owner's property located at 12 Birch Hill Road,...within 500 feet of any public way in the Town of Blandford, or on any property owned by any other person (including public ways of the Town), unless it is secured behind a fence or held on a leash held by a responsible adult."

The Vuroveczs were given more than a month to install fencing at that time.

Joshua A. Garcia had filed papers to become the fifth Holyoke mayoral candidate.

Chair Cara Letendre said, "I think it would be wonderful," and considered his move "awesome" and she added, "you are more than capable."

The primary runoff for the Holyoke candidates is in September.

*from page 1*

The Vuroveczs did not attend the hearing, either in person or virtually, although they had been notified.

Donovan said she had spoken with Susan Vurovecz about the incident. The dog was not enclosed or on a leash at the time.

Chair Cara Letendre acknowledged the board's prior order and motioned that Dixie be deemed a dangerous dog based on the hearing.

Eric McVey noted the options available to the board, including euthanasia.

Thomas Ackley proposed a fine "as hard as we can under the law, just to make an example for other people with dogs that we are not going to put up with this."

A fine of up to \$500 and documentation of insurance coverage of no less than \$100,000 for any claims resulting from any act by the dog and a reminder that there be a fenced enclosure for the dog.

McVey said the board should issue a fine, and have the homeowner return to the board to acknowledge the board's determination.

McVey motioned for a \$200 fine, and that the owner comply with six remedial steps associated with a dog deemed to be dangerous, and that the owner comply within 60 days or turn the animal over to the Animal Control Officer for euthanasia. The steps include the dog being restrained, confined, leased and muzzled, documented proof of insurance, information to identify the dog and evidence that the dog has been spayed.

Any dog deemed dangerous cannot be removed from the town in which the owner resides.

At the conclusion of the hearing, McVey said he would prefer to see someone build a fence and enjoy their dog and Ackley added that "it's not the dog's fault."

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# WORTHINGTON

## Council on Aging plans social gathering for seniors in June

WORTHINGTON — The Council on Aging is planning a social gathering for seniors on Monday, June 14, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Town Hall Gardens.

Participants must wear a mask, social distance, and their own chair.

Come listen to music and visit with friends.

Individual packaged snacks and water will be provided.

This event is underwritten by the Rolland Fund.

## Scholarship applications due May 21

WORTHINGTON — Applications are now available for the Peg Brodrick Memorial Scholarship. Anyone of any age who plans to further their secondary education in a health-related field is eligible to apply and must also live in the Gateway School District or a hilltown served by the Worthington or Huntington Health Centers.

Applicants can apply more than once. This memorial scholarship was established in the name of Peg Brodrick who served the Worthington Health

Center for many years as a staff nurse. Contributions to this fund are accepted throughout the year and can be mailed to 14 Harvey Road, Worthington, MA 01098. Applications are available at the guidance offices at Gateway Regional School, Wahconah Regional School, Hampshire Regional School and Smith Vocational School, as well as the Worthington and Huntington Health Centers.

Applications must be postmarked no later than May 21.

## PETITION

at R.H. Conwell Elementary School on Saturday, May 1. However, majority vote felt differently as the amendment referring the article to the Planning Board passed 89 to 45.

"I simply believe a zoning change shouldn't be done at Annual Town Meeting," said Finance Committee Chairman Joe Boudreau. "This article should be defeated and put back to the Planning Board as food for thought. Let them do their job."

"I support the idea of more affordable housing in town...I'm not in favor of voting on one part of the issue," Selectman Steve Smith said.

Planning Board member Isaac Bauer was strongly in favor of referring the issue to the board, as he feels frontage is one piece of a more comprehensive puzzle involving accessory dwellings, flexible housing, overlay districts, and other factors which all play a role in the housing situation in Worthington.

"I strongly believe we need to think as a town very carefully about how we want to grow," he said.

Petitioner Tina McCarthy opened discussion presenting her reasons behind the proposal. Her family was unable to subdivide and build a home on a property with 700 feet of frontage.

She could, however, build a home if they put a road through the property.

After researching the issue further, she discovered Worthington has the most restrictive frontage requirements in the state, which Smith said is "a touch embarrassing."

McCarthy feels adjusting the frontage requirements is a step in the right direction to address affordable housing issues in town while 280 feet still leaves it more restrictive than the surrounding hilltowns and preserving the rural character residents love.

"Adjusting the frontage now won't solve the open space or housing issue, but it's a step in the right direction," McCarthy said. "[Current zoning] encourages sprawl and the construction of new roads."

Julia Sharron, who was on the board when it voted to increase the frontage requirements to 400 feet, said it was a product of the times to prevent developers from coming in, buying up large plots of land and subdividing it into many small lots, and then leaving the town to deal with the aftermath. She strongly felt this wasn't the time or place for a vote and proposed an amendment to table the article before discussion had a chance to get started.

## Library scholarship due May 29

WORTHINGTON — The Worthington Library is pleased to announce the 2021 Worthington Library Scholarship.

This award is available to any student completing their high school studies and continuing their education at a post-secondary learning environment.

Applicants are asked to write an essay introducing themselves, describing their next educational pursuits and

answer this question: "When you look back, what book has been your favorite and what lessons will it bring you in the future?"

Essays must be submitted by May 29, 2021.

Mail or hand deliver the essay to The Worthington Library, PO Box 598, Worthington, MA 01098.

For more information, please contact Eileen at 413-238-4461.

## Thompson, Clapp earn committee seats

WORTHINGTON — Pam Thompson retained her seat on the committee and Deborah Clapp beat out Peter Ricci for the second Worthington School Committee seat in the May 1 Town election.

Thompson earned 146 votes, with Clapp receiving 115, and Ricci 85.

The other election positions were won unopposed including incumbents Charley Rose for Selectboard,

Jean Boudreau for Assessor, Katrin Kaminsky for Board of Health, Pat Kennedy for Center Cemetery Cemetery Commissioner, Bart Niswonger and Melinda Rose for Finance Committee, Josh Clark for Planning Board (five years), Jay Dreschnack for Constable, and Kaminsky for Town Clerk.

Kimberly Waite is a new addition to the Planning Board, winning the one-year open seat unopposed.

*from page 1*

"I think we have to think about this. It's going to be a big impact on our community," she said. "I don't think we have enough information to make an educated vote."

Moderator Kevin O'Connor cautioned voters about tabling an article as there's the potential for the issue to wither and die as it's forgotten about once the meeting ends. The vote to table the issue ended up tied, with O'Connor electing to abstain. This caused the vote to table to fail and allow discussion to continue.

Selectboard Chair Charley Rose felt strongly whether the town wanted to vote in favor or against the petition, the amount of research and legwork done by McCarthy deserved a result from ATM.

"These guys did their homework, and they deserve a vote," he said.

Resident Evan Johnson stepped forward and proposed the second attempted amendment to the article, this one referring it to the Planning Board. With the same issue of vagueness as the first table attempt, it was recommended to put a timeline in it as well to ensure the issue does return to the town. Smith recommended the 2023 ATM as there's too much work to be done in one year by a

volunteer board.

"I'm excited to work on this over the next year," Bauer said.

School Committee Chair Alison Todd pointed out Planning Board hearings and meetings do not get the same attendance as the crowd assembled at ATM and supported the petition.

"I think it's really important for housing to be accessible in Worthington," she said.

Other residents argued there will never be a consensus, larger zoning bylaw that will address all the concerns in one setting and wanted to vote on the issue now, and then have the Planning Board re-evaluate it as part of a larger picture.

"We've lost sight of what this is about," Tim Cena said. "We're never going to come to a consensus to get a larger zoning bylaw in."

Ultimately, Johnson's amendment passed, ending discussion without a true vote on the petition itself. The Planning Board will be gathering public input on housing issues and it examines the bylaw over the next two years and is expected to present a report of its findings at the 2023 ATM.

"A comprehensive look will take a bit of time," Chair Amy Wang said.

## News, photo publication policy

As a community newspaper our focus has always been local news. While we try very hard to run upcoming events as a public service whenever space allows, space does not allow us to run an upcoming event repeatedly. Our policy is to limit publication of upcoming events to one article in advance of the event and, space permitting, a second brief reminder article the week prior to an event, and to run those articles in only one section of the paper, and not in multiple sections simultaneously.

All such public service announcements and photos are subject to space limitations and deadlines, therefore publication cannot be guaranteed. Whenever copy for the week exceeds allotted space, news copy will take priority, and public service copy is the first area to be cut. We also reserve the right to edit for style and space, and are under no obligation to print lists of sponsorships, or articles that arrive after deadline, unless time and space allows.

**Deadline is Monday at NOON, on holidays it is Friday at 2 p.m.**



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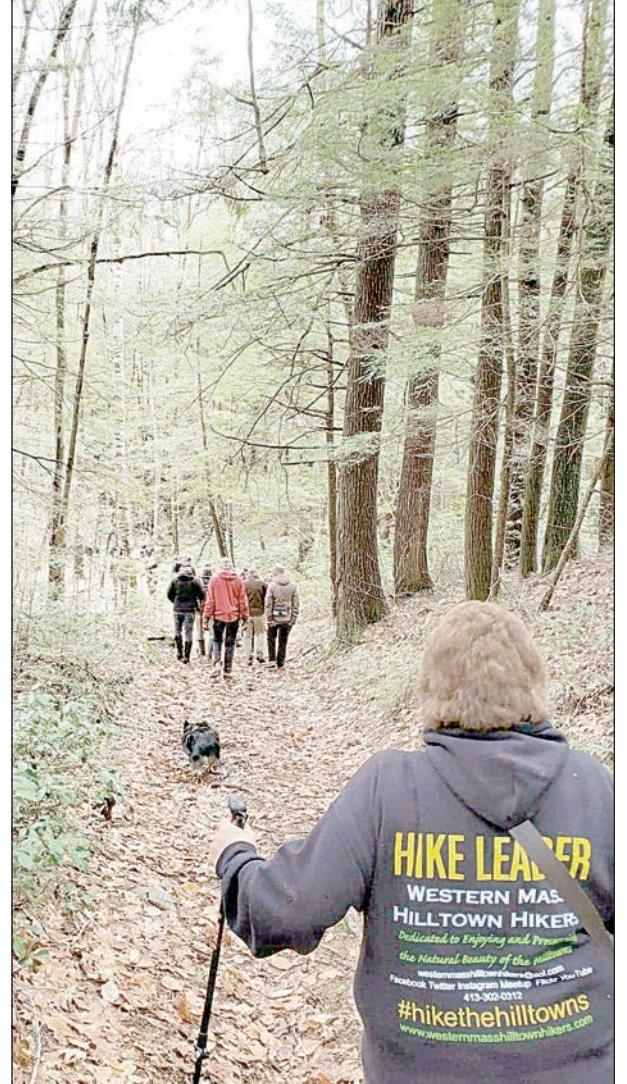
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## On the Knox



The Hilltown Hikers held a tour of the General Knox Trail in Otis and Sandisfield. Now that all the survey work has been done and the papers sent in, hikers were able to enjoy the General Knox Trail in Sandisfield along with Alec Gilman from DCR, Ron Bernard from Sandisfield Historical, Boston Historians and more. It is an honor to be a part of this very important part of American History. This past year, the hikers walked the 1764 survey of the General Knox Trail by Thomas Ragusa of the Otis Historical Society to GPS and waypoint sites on the route on the Sandisfield, Otis, and Blandford section to record the Road-Trail and sites of interest for Ma. Historical Commission and to nominate the Knox Trail as National Historic Place with the Department of Interior.

*Submitted photos*



Hikers enjoyed many beautiful aspects of early spring nature during the hike.

Hikers spread out along the path in different groups for safety precautions.

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Parts of the trail required navigation around and under branches.



Part of the trail covered with wooden planks to make traversal easier.



Hikers pause to take pictures of one of the giant rock formations along Knox Trail.



The frame of an old bulldozer found along the trail.

Hike Leader Karen McTaggart poses next to one of the old trail signs, barely legible from the wear of time.

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**USDA INSP. STORE MADE ITALIAN MARINATED BONELESS CHICKEN BREAST ..** **\$2.99**

**USDA INSP. 2 LB BOX KAYEM SKINLESS HOT DOGS..** **\$6.99** ea

**USDA INSP. FRESH BEEF TENDERLOIN CUT FREE** **\$6.99** lb

**USDA INSP. FRESH BEEF CHUCK ROAST or STEAKS** **\$2.99** lb

**USDA INSP. FRESH BEEF TOP SIRLOIN SPOON ROAST or STEAKS** **\$5.95** lb

**USDA INSP. FROZEN BONELESS & SKINLESS CHICKEN THIGH TRAY PAK .....** **\$1.29** lb

**USDA INSP. FROZEN CHICKEN LEGS 1/4s 40 LB BOX .....** **\$12.99** lb

**USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS 10 LB BAG .....** **79¢** lb

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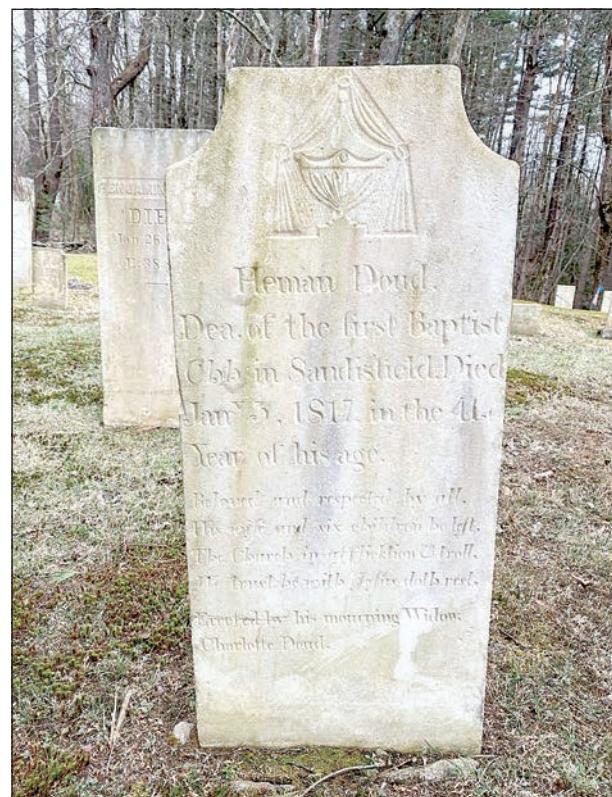
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# OTIS

## WEBB REST



The Free Meeting House Cemetery in Otis on Cold Spring Road. Many Webb family stones here as the sawmill and cellar hole are just a bit down the road. The stones date back to the early 1800s.

*Submitted photos by Karen McTaggart*

## ATM features petitions, bylaw amendments

OTIS — By law changes and citizen's petitions are a popular commodity on the Annual Town meeting warrant, which voters will be able to voice their opinions for or against on Tuesday, May 18.

Voters will have to decide on Article 20, 21, and 22 to make additions and amendments to the town's zoning bylaws. Article 20 asks the towns to adopt a Massachusetts General Law which establishes a 6% local room occupancy excise tax; Article 21 amends the zoning bylaws to add Section 8 for commercial ground mounted solar photovoltaic installations; Article 22 would amend the bylaws to include a section for special districts including a Floodplain overlay District.

The 27-article warrant ends with two citizen's petitions. The first to transfer the ownership of St. Paul's Church, 13

Monterey Road, to the Otis Preservation Trust to allow for renovation of the structure without constraints inherent to municipal ownership in Article 26. Article 23 asks to the town to transfer the property to town ownership and turn it into a community center for social, cultural, and educational purposes; voters will have to decide which direction they want to see the property go. Following Article 23, Article 24 asks the town to use \$70,000 in the Community Center account for the restoration and repair of the church.

Article 27 is a petition to add the word exclusively to the town's wireless communication facilities bylaws. The proposed change would read "Wireless communication facilities used exclusively for Town or State emergency services."

Article 25 asks voters to raise and appropriate an additional 25% of the East

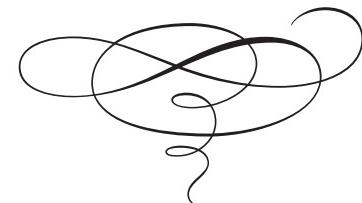
Otis School House Project in the amount of \$44,567. This is to meet requirements set by the Massachusetts Preservation projects Fund Grant application.

The fiscal 2022 operating budget kept increases to a minimum and has risen about \$66,000 from fiscal 2021. New expenditures on the warrant this year include the borrowing of \$460,000 for a new pumper fire truck, \$25,000 to purchase and install a paper compactor at the Transfer Station, \$70,000 for new turn out gear for the Fire Department, \$70,000 for a new Highway Department truck, and \$263,000 for the repairing and repaving of portions of Judd Road, Ed Jones Road, and Merritt Road.

Town Meeting will start at 6 p.m. at the Otis Town Hall, One North Main Road, on Tuesday, May 18. A full copy of the warrant is available at [townofotis.ma.com](http://townofotis.ma.com).

## MassDEP offers free PFAS testing

OTIS — The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection is offering private well owners an opportunity to receive free testing for PFAS compounds in communities where 60% or more of the consumers use private wells, like Otis. The link to apply for free sampling is [dwp-pfas.madwpdep.org](http://dwp-pfas.madwpdep.org). For more information about the program, visit the frequently asked questions for MassDEP private well testing at [mass.gov](http://mass.gov).



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## WESTHAMPTON

# Pollinator resolution returns to Annual Town Meeting

By Shelby Macri

WESTHAMPTON — Annual Town Meeting will convene this Saturday, May 8, at 9 a.m. at the Westhampton Elementary School, and residents will vote on 26 warrant articles including a resolution to be a pollinator friendly community.

The resolution has been in the works since last year's ATM when it was brought to the warrant as a citizen petition. The town created a sub-committee dedicating to doing research on becoming pollinator-friendly and what that entails. Selectboard member Maureen Dempsey took the lead on the committee and has been updating the rest of the board on its progress throughout this past year.

The resolution's purpose is to increase pollinator education in town and to further support the health of

pollinators, including to join the state created Pollinator Protection Plan outlining the best management practices and captions to benefit pollinators. As a pollinator-friendly community the adoption of policies and practices to support pollinator health are encouraged; these practices include increasing the community's education on pollinators and pollinator health, following pollinator-friendly best practices as outlined in the Massachusetts Pollinator Protection Plan, and expanding pollinator habitat on town properties. Additionally, the sub-committee would continue on as a different committee to educate the community on pollinators and their health, as well as some reasons as to why pollinator numbers are decreasing.

Residents will need to vote on the fiscal 2022 budget. Articles 6 through 9 include costs for the different schools including to raise and appropriate a sum

of money to meet the town's share of Hampshire Regional School Districts assessment for fiscal 2022, Westhampton Elementary School, and vocational school tuition and transportation costs. The posted warrant doesn't include cost numbers, but the budget for fiscal 2022 will be put on the website this week as well as being handed out during the ATM.

There are a few articles that include funds for government offices including raising and appropriating \$2,000 for the Treasurer, Collector, Town Clerk support and train expenses as new people fill these roles; and for Administrative Assistant search and training expenses \$3,620 is asked.

A sum for painting the interior walls and refinishing the floors of the large meeting hall at Town Hall will be voted on, as it was recommended by the Town Property and Energy Committee

as well as encouraged by residents. Additionally, \$5,000 is asked for the Police Department for equipment and training as well as \$7,500 for the Police Reform Training.

Residents will also vote on re-authorizing revolving funds for the Fire Department, the Westhampton Cemetery, and the Police Department School Resource Officer. The revolving fund for the Fire Department is not to exceed \$2,000, Westhampton Cemetery is not to exceed \$6,000, and the resource officer is not to exceed \$8,000. The warrant also lists the positions that need to be elected by ballot for the upcoming year, as the election will be at the Town Hall on Saturday, June 5.

Town Meeting will start at 9 a.m. on Saturday, May 8, at the Westhampton Elementary School. For a full copy of the warrant and town budget, visit [westhampton-ma.com](http://westhampton-ma.com).

## WILLIAMSBURG

### ADMINISTRATOR

*from page 1*

administrator experience, but I'm banking on he'll be able to learn those ropes pretty quickly."

Selectman Dave Mathers also recommended Caccamo as his first choice, citing similar concerns about the lack of experience, but confident in the energy and drive that came across during the interview process.

"He was willing to jump in, start, and really apply himself," he said.

Selectman Denise Banister lobbied for Town Clerk Brenda Lessard to get the position. Banister said Lessard's knowledge of the town, and its functions, could be critical to achieving a smooth transition after the decade of stability brought by Nardi.

"I think she would be very good. She knows the town, she knows the process we just went through with the public safety and I think she would do well carrying that one forward," Banister said. "She's got great knowledge when it comes to who to ask and what needs to be done."

Mathers said his concern with Lessard was she doesn't have work wrapped up in her current role to be ready to transition to a new one with more responsibilities.

"This is a much bigger job than the town clerk's job. I'm not sure she can step up to this much busier position comfortable," he said. "I didn't feel comfortable that she was really, really wanting to do the job at all costs."

Sayre also expressed his concern promoting Lessard to a new position would leave another vacancy for the town to fill.

All three board members expressed concerns about McKinney and had him as the third choice. Mathers was concerned about the oversight in missing four questions on the application and Sayre said he read about an incident where McKinney submitted the incorrect fiscal budget one year.

"To me that's a question of proofreading. That's important to me, especially when you're submitting documents to agencies, grants, you can't afford to just not answer some questions," Sayre said.

Administrative Assistant Eleanor Warnock echoed concerns the three board members had over an incident with a selectman that led to McKinney resigning as Town Administrator of Clarksburg in 2019. While the other two candidates lacked the same experience as McKinney, Warnock felt Caccamo had the better interview.

"Neither one has the experience, and I was disappointed Brenda didn't present herself better," she said. "The way she presented herself yesterday [April 27], she wasn't presenting a lot in terms of competence."

The board asked Nardi for her feedback on some of the concerns. She said while Caccamo lacks grant writing experience, she feels it's something that can be learned quickly as the process has been made less complicated. She cautioned the board to consider finding a person who is interested in working with the type of town Burgy is and not trying to change its identity.

"Williamsburg is not interested in changing who we are as a community. I think you need somebody who has the ability to understand there's a difference," she said. "We don't want to be a big city. We want to be efficient; we want to use all our resources...but we are proud to be a small town. We don't want to become a city in how we operate or how we look."

She noted she felt all three candidates "have the ability to the job."

"I think he'll [Caccamo] be able to learn the culture and gain the experience. He has the capability," Sayre said.

The board's deliberations concluded with a unanimous vote to hire Caccamo as Town Administrator.

## CUMMINGTON

### Marijuana hearing scheduled for May 12

CUMMINGTON — The ZBA will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, May 12, 2021, to review the application of Jasa Farms LLC for a marijuana establishment on 0 Bryant Road.

The meeting will be held at the

Community House and also virtually. Social distancing and mask wearing will be in effect for those attending the meeting in person. For a copy of the official public hearing notice, the application, or a link to the virtual sign-in, visit [Cummington-ma.gov](http://Cummington-ma.gov).

## SCHOOLS & YOUTH

### WRESTLING

*from page 1*

demic and emotional benefits competitions have for athletes as well as letting committee members know the team is committed to adhering to any protocols put in place to have a chance to compete.

"They need structure. They need social interactions. They definitely need to exercise their bodies," Don Willard said. "We're at a point where we can no longer avoid life, but instead we need to look at the risk-benefit ratios and employ strategies to mitigate these risks."

Director of Student Activities John Plourde highlighted the key modifications wrestling has this year. The athletes will be masked at all times, in practices and meets, and meets will be limited to dual or tri meets. Each team will provide their own ankles and leg bands for competition, limit size of the teams to essential personnel and staff, and stay distanced from the mats during meets. Host schools are expected to provide socially distant bench areas.

Mats will be cleaned after each meet, but not between matches. Don Willard explained even if a match goes for its max length, athletes won't exceed more than 12 minutes of exposure time with their opponent and will be encouraged to take an outdoor mask

break afterwards.

"Even at a tri-meet, that athlete might only have one match and that match could be a minute long or two minutes," he said. "Worst case scenario is if that kid at a tri-meet had two matches and they went full-time, you're looking at 12 minutes of exposure time."

There was a brief mention of the safety and health of athletes if they had to wear double masks, and some schools even use no masks according to Don Willard, but the single mask should suffice. Scott Johndrow eagerly volunteered to be the Covid Coach if the team needs one.

"think they're young healthy adults where they can wear a mask and if they feel exertion, they need to stop. They know they're not going to keep wrestling until they pass out," Don Willard said.

Principal Kristen Smidy also reported school MCAS dates have been adjusted. MCAS will now start on June 3 for ninth grade biology testing. Seventh, eighth, and tenth graders will take ELA MCAS on June 7; seventh and eighth have math on June 8 and tenth will have ELA; eighth grade has science on June 9 and tenth has math; tenth grade has its final ELA MCAS test on June 10.

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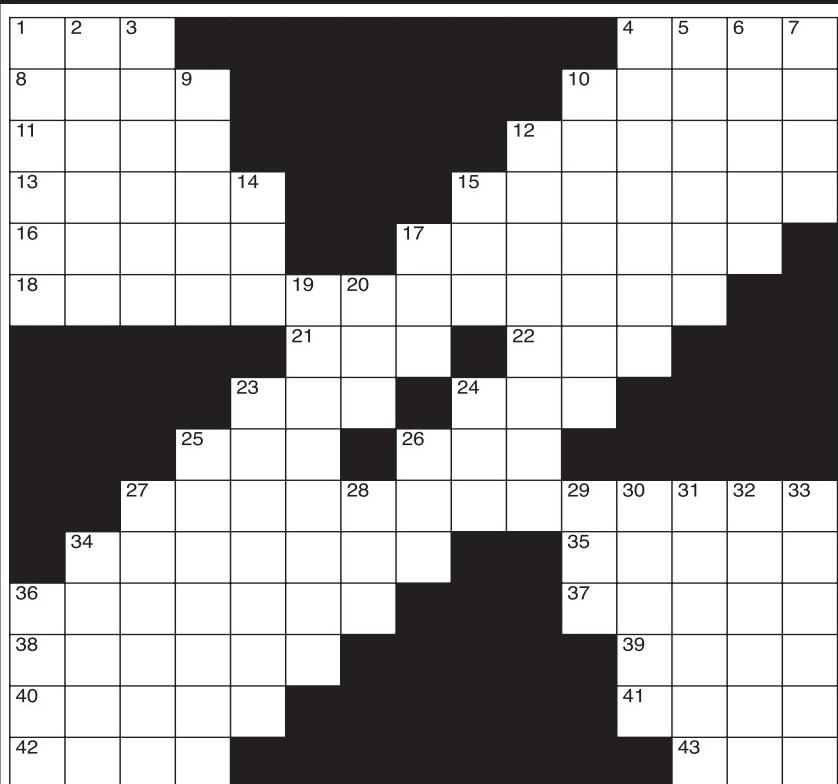
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- Engine additive
- A hearty laugh
- Restrain
- Dried coconut kernels
- Nefarious
- Elderly
- Central part of a church building
- Throw into confusion
- Intestinal
- Qualities of being religious
- Live up to a standard
- Seize
- Go quickly
- Automated teller machine
- Bowling necessity
- One point east

### CLUES DOWN

- Beautiful
- of due south
- Japanese honorific
- A way to induce sleep
- register rolls
- A city in S Louisiana
- Make more cheerful
- Manicurist
- Consents
- Network of nerves
- Mocking smile
- It covers the body
- Partner to pans
- Perform in a play
- Gathering place
- Informal

- Polynesian island country
- Shrub of the olive family
- Makes cash register rolls
- A city in S Louisiana
- Shared one's view
- Tailless amphibians
- Charge passengers must pay
- Sound sheep make
- Known for sure
- Filled with unexpressed anger
- Student (abbr.)
- Criticize
- Gathering place
- Informal
- One's mother (British)
- Landholder
- Peter's last name
- Parties
- Title of respect
- Red wine
- Pearl Jam's debut
- Shaft horsepower (abbr.)
- Frosts
- Cry of joy
- Induces vomiting
- Mother or father
- Dal \_\_: Musical navigation marker
- Door fastener part

## THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

### ARIES

Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, serving others is important, but it also is essential that you take care of yourself. Set aside time for some pampering or at least to enjoy some moments of quiet.

### CANCER

Jun 22/Jul 22

Expect things to go quite nicely for you this week, Cancer. More prosperity should be heading your way and all in all things will flow smoothly at home and work.

### LIBRA

Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, if you feel like you're not getting the attention you deserve at work, you may need to plead your case to a new audience. See if you can move up the chain of command.

### CAPRICORN

Dec 22/Jan 20

Your desire to get things done is only hindered by the free time you have. This might be an opportunity to take a personal day and catch up on your home life, Capricorn.

### TAURUS

Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, it is important that you take a stand one way or another concerning a relationship with someone close. Taking a stand will benefit both parties.

### LEO

Jul 23/Aug 23

It is time to get on the same page as others close to you, Leo. This could involve making some minor adjustments to your way of thinking, but it will be well worth it.

### SCORPIO

Oct 24/Nov 22

Your mind and energy levels are on an even keel this week, Scorpio. You have the perfect combination to get big projects done. Tackle as much as you can.

### AQUARIUS

Jan 21/Feb 18

Give yourself some self-healing time, Aquarius. You have been juggling a lot of different things lately, which may have crowded your mind. Sort it all out.

### GEMINI

May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, stubborn minds can cause friction when they interact with one another, but you can be the mediator who steps in. Try to cool tempers and smooth things out.

### VIRGO

Aug 24/Sept 22

Important lessons on balance are learned this week, Virgo. They involve how much of yourself you are sharing with others. You may need to slightly scale back the helping hand.

### SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, it is alright to be a bit more selfish than usual for the next few days. You probably have tasks that have been put off for some time. Now is the time to get them done.

### PISCES

Feb 19/Mar 20

Leave worries at your doorstep, Pisces. This is a week when the sun is always shining and everything seems to fall in place.

4				9				
				4	5	1	9	3
9				2	8		7	5
							9	
				5	3		6	
8				9	7	5	2	
4	5			6		8		1
3	6			8	9	4		
2	8	4	7	1			3	

## SUDOKU

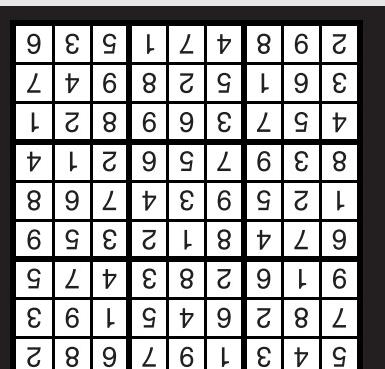
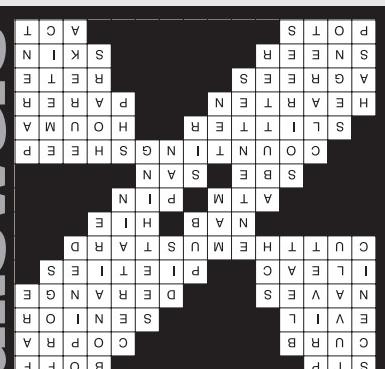
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## PLAINFIELD

# Budget, broadband fund approved by voters at ATM

By Shelby Macri

PLAINFIELD — Annual Town Meeting was held on Saturday, May 1, with residents gathering at the Alden Pavilion and bringing chairs to sit in as people flooded the provided seats.

The meeting started quickly and delved into the fiscal 2022 budget, with groupings of department costs being separately approved. The total budget requested was \$2,880,695.83 before the Financial Committee amended an extra \$4,446 making the recommended budget \$2,885,141.83 in total. The proposed departmental costs were approved one by one, and the town approved the recommended budget, with an increase of \$191,776.09 from last year's budget.

The budget included special articles on the ATM warrant including Town Hall painting for \$25,000, the Board of Health compactor building for \$5,000, and \$297,116 for broadband Operating Expenses.

The voters also approved Article 4 to raise and appropriate \$318,000 for repair work to the Sanderson Academy in Ashfield, though Article 5 for work on Buckland Shelburne Elementary School repairs was approved to take no action as the town has no students attending. The Selectboard was told by



Residents gather at the Alden Pavilion for Annual Town Meeting on Saturday, May 1. The Selectboard were distanced at the gazebo with microphones to explain the warrant articles.

*Photo by Shelby Macri*

the MTRSD Superintendent that as long as they didn't vote no, they could vote no action to be taken. Article 6 of \$665,000 for the Mohawk Trail Region School was approved as students attend from Plainfield.

Voters approved the \$24,600 for interior renovations to the Hathaway

Hall, the renovations include an office for the chief and getting the building up to code so it can continue to run. Other approved expenditures included the creation of a Broadband Stabilization Fund with \$17,542 from Broadband Retained Earnings, \$14,600 to be transferred from stabilization to the Town Hall

Fire Escape account, \$10,600 for the Highway Roof account, \$14,572 from free cash and \$10,428 from stabilization to paint the Town Hall, and borrowing \$120,000 for up to five years to purchase a used grader.

Two other articles were approved to take no action on; including article 21 to add bylaws to delay demolitions in town by 12 months to see if historical buildings can be saved. Residents argued that if they own a property, they should be able to do what they want with that property, whether it's historical or not. This article was a way to try and keep historical buildings in town, but an owner waiting 12 months for news of being able to demo their property was agreed by the town to be too long of a wait and unethical for the property owner.

Additionally, Article 22 was voted to take no action on the proposed bylaws regarding the use of jake brakes used by large trucks. Residents and the Select Board agreed that more research and work can and should be done before preparing an article concerning the use of brakes.

The ATM warrant is still available on the town website, plainfield-ma.us; the website also has a copy of the broadband handouts and summary of the broadband topics covered at the meeting.

## SANDISFIELD

# Marijuana bylaw headlines Annual Town Meeting warrant

By Shelby Macri

SANDISFIELD — The Annual Town Meeting is set for Saturday, May 15, at 10 a.m. at the Highway Garage located at 5 Silverbrook Road, where residents will vote on 28 articles.

One of those articles will be the town's Cannabis Establishment Zoning bylaw, a 14-page item fully detailing the procedures for cannabis businesses in town including the purpose of the bylaw, which is to allow State licensed adult use marijuana establishments to be located within town; in accordance with applicable state laws and the rules and regulations set in place.

The bylaw gives definitions to specific language and phrases used in this process, assigns different tiers for the square feet of an area, a proposed marijuana overlay district, and types of permits and establishments to help residents better understand the bylaw.

It also outlines operating regulations, special permit application procedures, and the special permit requirements and conditions for a marijuana establishment to open and function in town. There are different types of marijuana establishments including retail, cultivating, and transporting and the bylaw covers all of these options as to not leave any alternative way out. The bylaw lastly covers abandonment and removal of an establishment as well as the severability of the provisions of this bylaw.

The Selectboard unanimously supports this bylaw and believes it'll be productive to establish these regulations, unlike the citizen's petition which asks the town to prohibit all recreational marijuana establishments which the board

unanimously does not support.

Voters will also see 10 articles to raise and appropriate or otherwise transfer from available funds for the fiscal 2022 expenses and accounts; this includes for general Government Buildings and Operations and Maintenance, for Boards and Committees, educational purposes, Health and sanitation, Community Benefits, Public Safety purposes, Highway Department, Employee Benefits and Insurance, general Government Finances, and general Government Administration purposes. Each item has a chart with approved numbers from fiscal 2021 compared to the requested amounts for fiscal 2022 with the increase or decrease also shown, to be transparent on the information being presented to the voters.

Other article items ask to appropriate funds for salaries, department projects, a new police cruiser, new fire truck hoses, and the jaws of life cutter, spreader, and ram. Costs include for \$45,000 for a new cruiser, \$45,000 for the jaws of life equipment, and \$20,000 for the hoses; all the expenditures will come from Free Cash.

Residents will also vote on two articles asking to raise and appropriating money for the Capital Improvement Plan Stabilization Account; one article for \$100,000 and the other article for \$250,000. While the Selectboard unanimously supports these two articles, the Finance Committee unanimously opposes both articles.

For more specific information on the warrant or to take an early look at the lengthy cannabis bylaws, residents can find a copy of the warrant on the town website, [www.sandisfieldma.gov](http://www.sandisfieldma.gov).

## GOSHEN

# Write-ins fill vacant positions

GOSHEN — Three write-in candidates received votes for a two-year seat on the Finance Committee with Mary Packard winning the seat over Kerry Baldwin and Dawn Scaparotti.

Corey Carvalho won a three-way write in campaign for a five-year seat on the Planning Board with six of the 11 votes over Keith Wright and Bob Labrie. There was also a four-way write-in tie for the four-year Planning Board seat. Town Clerk Kristin Estelle will be notifying the candidates to see if any are interested.

Barton Gage won the

Chesterfield-Goshen Regional School Committee seat over Carla Raymond 33 to 21.

The following positions were unopposed and are for three-year terms unless noted otherwise: Almoner, Kristin Bissell; Assessor, Gina Papineau; Board of Health, Tiffany Marcinek; Finance Committee, Angela Otis; Library Trustee, Rosemarie Clark and Sabrina McGill; Selectboard, Angela Otis; Tilton Fruit Farm Supervisor, one-year term, Roger Culver, Robert Goss, and Richard Polwrek; Town Clerk, Kristin Estelle.

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# OBITUARY

## Ernest F. Lowinski, 95

Ernest F. Lowinski passed Feb. 6, 2021 shortly after his 95th birthday. He and his wife Karen will be laid to rest in Spring Grove Cemetery in Florence, MA on Saturday, May 15, at 10:30 a.m.

The only child born to Rose Alma (Emma) and Joseph Lowinski. He grew up in the Aldenville section of Chicopee and attended St. Joan of Arc school. He had a fierce love of country and joined the Merchant Marines in 1944. Ernie served on the Merchant Marine ship Serpent that hauled supplies used for the war effort back and forth from Connecticut to Virginia. He joined the Army in 1946, where he was trained as a diesel mechanic for the tanks. He was shipped to Okinawa, Japan and then assigned to South Korea with the 81st Tank division. The next year he fixed tanks that built up the South Korean Army later used in the Korean War. During his service in the South Pacific, he witnessed the devastation that the atomic bomb did to Hiroshima. After being honorably discharged, when war broke out in 1950, he was called back to serve in South Korea. He served for over a year at Fort Eustis, VA doing research and development on military landing crafts with Ford Motors.

Ernie spent most of his adult life right here on Bromley Rd. in Chester. He and his first wife Virginia raised three children — Ernest F. Jr., Virginia M. and Michael Brown, and Michael A. and Jeanne Lowinski. His second wife Karen L. passed on Nov. 17, 2020 and she had three children — Glade and Clarke Hall both deceased, and Kim and Scott Soutra. Ernie was Dad to all six children.

Ernie and Karen spent their later years in Holiday FL. They were both very active in the Bible Baptist Church. Karen played the piano and organ and Ernie kept everyone smiling with his quick wit, generosity, and loving way. Ernie stayed active till the very end, mowing his grass and keeping his neighbors happy.

Ernie and Karen leave behind 11 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren. Ernie shared his loving parents with three cousins William X. Desmarais and Jeanne Desmarais Bancroft and Annette Fimbel LaMountain; his parents raised them as their own.

Ernie made sure there would be a fire department on Chester Hill for the residents; it's built on the Lowinski property. Till we meet again, "Keep Smiling."

## DEATH NOTICE

### LOWINSKI, ERNEST F.

Died Feb. 6, 2021

*Country Journal*

## OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

*Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.*

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

May 6, 2021  
Town of Huntington  
24 Russell Road  
Huntington, MA 01050  
413-667-3500

**These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be under-**

### taken by the Town of Huntington. REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about June 3rd, 2021, the Town of Huntington will submit a request to the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) for the release of Community Development Block Grant funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 as

amended, for the purpose of the following project(s):

FY 2020 Huntington Community Assistance Program:

**1. Town Hall Entrance Ramp Improvement Project:** CDBG project cost: \$70,000. The proposed project will replace the town's existing entrance ramp. Upon completion project completion the town will have constructed a new entrance ramp that fully complies with all current state and federal accessibility standards and provides barrier free access to all users of the Town Hall and Stanton Hall.

**2. Crescent Street Road Improvement Project:** CDBG project cost: \$394,000. The proposed project will include engineering design and construction for infrastructure improvements including water line replacement, drainage improvements, and road resurfacing. Phase I construction will include the replacement of existing water lines. The project area consists of approximately 1,320 linear feet of Crescent Street.

### FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Town of Huntington

has determined that the projects will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the Huntington Town Hall, 24 Russell Road, Huntington, MA where it can be viewed Monday through Thursday from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm, and at the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 60 Congress Street, Springfield, Massachusetts 01104, where the record is available for review and may be examined or copied weekdays 9:00 am to 4:30 pm.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the Selectboard. All comments received by May 22nd, 2021 will be considered by Edward Renauld, Environmental Certifying Officer, prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds.

### RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Town of Huntington certifies to the DHCD

that Edward Renauld, in his official capacity as Environmental Certifying Officer, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The DHCD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the Town of Huntington to use Program funds.

### OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The DHCD will accept objections to its release of funds and the Town of Huntington's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases:

(a) The certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Town of Huntington;

(b) The Town of Huntington has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58;

(c) The grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by the DHCD; or

(d) Another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality.

Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 55.76) and shall be addressed to the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development at 100 Cambridge Street, Suite 300, Boston, MA 02114. Potential objectors should contact the DHCD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Edward Renauld,  
Huntington Selectboard Chair  
Environmental Certifying Officer  
Town of Huntington  
24 Russell Road, PO Box 430  
Huntington, MA 01050  
05/06/2021

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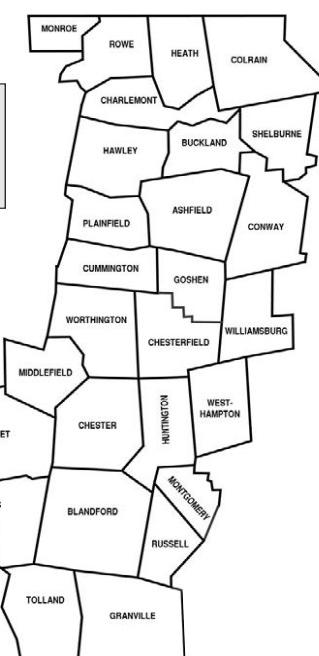
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# CHESTERFIELD

## MUSEUM

from page 1

Voters will only need to approve one of the three articles. Articles 16 and 17 for repairs will utilize \$69,110 or \$60,605 from free cash while the third article, Article 18, is a citizen's petition from Eileen McGowan and Dee Cinner to transfer \$46,110 from available funds for carpentry repair, sills, cedar siding, painting, shutter repair and painting, disposal of lead contaminated waste, and prevailing wage, and window restoration.

Town Administrator Sue Labrie said Articles 16 and 17 cover all the repairs identified by the architect including roof replacement. The difference is 16 goes for more historically accurate materials while 17 goes for a lower cost vinyl option, which also has more benefits long-term and lower maintenance. The citizen's petition leaves out the roof work the town included in 16 and 17.

"Basically, everything the architect identified in need of being fixed is addressed in 16 and 17," Labrie said. "18 was the petition article. It is not inclusive of all repairs that are needed. Everything in 18 is already covered in 16. Basically, they'd get some of things fixed, but not the roof."

The Historical Commission also submitted a petition to amend the zoning bylaws to not allow wireless communication facility within 200 feet of a residential building or 750 feet of the town center district. The Planning Board is recommending this article be tabled so more research about its impact can be conducted.

The town is seeking to fund an enterprise fund, which is recommended by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue for Municipal Light Plant

accounting methodology. In the budget, this fund is listed among the line items adding a new \$263,204 line item. The Finance Committee stated in its report of the warrant the expenses should be offset by the projected subscription revenue from MLP operation.

The Selectboard, who currently serves as the MLP Board, is also looking to have the town establish a five member MLP Board to operate the town's MLP. This board will include a Finance Committee member, a Selectboard member, one member with technical expertise, and two at-large members.

The Finance Committee also reported this year's modest school budget increases have allowed the town to fully fund its capital plan and address other town needs in the fiscal 2022 budget. The Hampshire Regional High School assessment dropped by \$81,378 while New Hingham Elementary School increased \$26,542.

The Highway Department, Council on Aging, and library have increased budgets for fiscal 2022. The Finance Committee states the library increase is for the director's salary and wage line for library assistants being increased to be more comparable to other town employees; the COA funds a two-hour a week increase for the director and creates a five hour a week clerical position; and the Highway Department budget adds a new employee to the department while consolidating existing expense lines and adding new funds.

"This new addition is made in recognition of the department's needs as well as OSHA regulations, which discourage situations where workers are alone on the job," the Finance

Committee stated.

Article 1 asks the town to approve the emergency winter spending over the budget amount. The annual expense this year carries a total of \$11,296.51.

Article 2 asks for the town to approve \$5,200 from free cash to replace the town website, which uses an outdated platform and has many issues. The website will cost \$4,000 to create with \$1,200 for its associated annual fee.

Article 3 asks the town to authorize the Selectboard to execute a declaration of ownership for Ireland Street Cemetery as part of a requirement from the Massachusetts Historical Commission so the town can receive \$12,500 in matching grant funds for the reconstruction of historic stone walls in the old section of the cemetery.

Articles 5 and 6 are transferring funds into the School Building Maintenance Stabilization Fund and Capital Projects Stabilization fund, \$60,000 and \$170,000 respectively. These funds are used when large projects arise in the future, so the town doesn't have to borrow. The building fund was used for the repairs to the R.H. Conwell Elementary School roof.

"This is a savings account we don't have to borrow when the school comes to us with a big project," Labrie said.

Article 8 requires a two-thirds majority to approve borrowing \$60,000 for the purchase of a mower for the Highway Department. This mower costs \$120,000, but the town is sharing the mower, and the cost, with Worthington.

The full warrant, proposed budget, and Finance Committee recommendations are available at [townofchesterfield-ma.com](http://townofchesterfield-ma.com).

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